

ABSTRACT OF SANITARY REPORTS.

VOL. V. WASHINGTON, D. C., FEBRUARY 28, 1890. No. 9.

[Published at the Marine-Hospital Bureau in accordance with act of Congress of April 29, 1878.]

UNITED STATES.

SPECIAL REPORTS.

Influenza and allied diseases.

CHICAGO, ILL.—Week ended February 22. Lung diseases prevail. Influenza decreasing.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.—Week ended February 15. Influenza caused 6 deaths; phthisis pulmonalis, 59; inflammation of bronchi, 10; inflammation of lungs, 35.

BROOKLYN, N. Y.—Week ended February 22. Phthisis pulmonalis caused 44 deaths; pneumonia, 51; diphtheria, 31; and bronchitis, 23.

BALTIMORE, MD.—Week ended February 22. Bronchitis caused 13 deaths; pneumonia, 23; and phthisis pulmonalis, 22.

CINCINNATI, OHIO.—Week ended February 22. Phthisis pulmonalis caused 17 deaths; bronchitis, 16; and pneumonia, 20.

PITTSBURGH, PA.—Week ended February 15. Diseases of the respiratory system caused over one-quarter of the mortality.

CLEVELAND, OHIO.—Week ended January 11. Phthisis pulmonalis caused 12 deaths; pneumonia and congestion of lungs, 20; and bronchitis, 9.

Week ended January 18. Phthisis pulmonalis caused 14 deaths; pneumonia and congestion of the lungs, 38; and bronchitis, 8.

MILWAUKEE, WIS.—Week ended February 22. Diseases of the respiratory organs prevail.

NASHVILLE, TENN.—Week ended February 21. Continued prevalence of diseases of the respiratory tract.

PORTLAND, ME.—Week ended February 22. The number of fatal cases of pneumonia still above the normal.

KEOKUK, IOWA.—Week ended February 8. "Lagrippe" caused 43 deaths and influenza 76.

NEWTON, MASS.—Week ended February 22. Influenza has practically disappeared. A case appears now and then, and occasionally a

death occurs which has been influenced by a prolonged attack of influenza.

Influenza at Evansville, Ind.

U. S. MARINE-HOSPITAL SERVICE,
Evansville, Ind., February 19, 1890.

SIR: I have the honor to make the following collective report of the cases of influenza treated by the service at this station during the recent epidemic:

The first case appeared January 7, and the last case on January 24.

Twenty-one per cent., or eleven of the fifty-two patients treated at this office, and twenty-eight per cent., or six of the twenty-one patients admitted to hospital, were cases of influenza.

The symptoms in the large majority of cases were as follows: Malaise, lassitude, sometimes great prostration, headache, chilly sensations, sneezing, and watery discharge from the nose and eyes, aching pains and soreness in the muscles of the back and limbs, usually experienced early in the disease, but sometimes not until the beginning of convalescence; cough, sometimes dry, but usually accompanied by expectoration; and fever, the temperature ranging from 37.5° to 39.5° C., and the pulse from 80 to 100 a minute.

As a rule the disease seemed essentially a catarrh of the respiratory mucous membrane, affecting the nose, larynx, trachea, and bronchial tubes, but in a few cases the alimentary canal was involved, producing vomiting and diarrhœa, and in one instance the nervous symptoms were especially marked in addition to the usual catarrhal symptoms—the patient lying in a somnolent apathetic condition for three days, with temperature ranging from 38.5° to 39.5° C.

The duration of the disease varied from five to fourteen days.

The treatment consisted mainly of diaphoretics and expectorants—chloride of ammonia being the favorite remedy—during the acute stages, and tonics during convalescence.

The disease was prevalent in the city, relapses were common, and some were complicated by pneumonia, which in a few instances resulted in death.

Very respectfully,

GEORGE T. VAUGHAN,
Assistant Surgeon, Marine-Hospital Service.

Influenza in Iowa.

STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS,
Des Moines, February 14, 1890

DEAR SIR: Influenza has almost entirely disappeared from the State, few, if any, new cases occurring. There have been few fatalities. Climatic conditions were most favorable to prompt recovery. Weather has been mild and dry. About the usual number of deaths from pneumonia and phthisis pulmonalis. Few new cases of diphtheria in the State. Epidemic nowhere.

Respectfully,

J. F. KENNEDY, *Secretary.*

Improvements at New York quarantine.

Dr. Wm. M. Smith, health officer, port of New York, in reply to inquiry concerning wall coatings used in the new quarantine buildings, furnishes the following information :

QUARANTINE, STATEN ISLAND, *February 20, 1890.*

DEAR SIR: The improvements which have been undertaken and are now nearly completed at our quarantine of observation (Hoffman Island) are in part as follows :

The integrity of the island and its interior crib-work has been secured by building a heavy concrete wall inside the rip-rap wall from below low-water mark to and above the surface of the island. On this wall is a heavy coping 2 feet wide by 10 inches thick. The whole interior of the island is covered by a substantial concrete laid upon finely broken stone, which in turn is covered by a coating of asphalt. Both floors of each dormitory (each 137 by 61 feet) are covered by asphalt. Each floor is divided into two sections with partitions of galvanized iron. The interior walls, 8 feet high, are heavily coated with duresco first, and then with metallic paint. The design is to secure throughout the whole surface of the island, and in every part accessible in the dormitories by immigrant passengers, a non-absorbing surface. The experience in 1887, when cholera-infected immigrants were kept at this quarantine of observation, demonstrated the necessity of such a condition as I have described. At that time I had all these floors washed once a day with a solution of bichloride of mercury, one to five hundred, and after a few hours again washed with sea-water, through the aid of hose connected with the steam-pumps. The latter was done, of course, to prevent the accumulation of bichloride and the transfer of that agent to children, who were more or less in contact with the floor with their hands.

The above constitutes but a small portion of the improvements made at this island. A new building is now constructed which will contain a disinfecting plant, baggage and drying-rooms, etc., which is fully described in my annual report, not yet printed.

Respectfully,

WM. M. SMITH, *Health Officer.*

Reports of States, and Yearly and Monthly Reports of Cities.

CALIFORNIA—*City and county.*—Population, 330,000. Total deaths, 798, including diphtheria, 10 ; croup, 13 ; enteric fever, 17 ; measles, 2 ; whooping-cough, 1 ; and scarlet fever, 5.

Phthisis pulmonalis caused 148 deaths ; bronchitis, 38 ; and pneumonia, 141.

IOWA—*Des Moines.*—Month of January, 1890. Population, 55,000. Total deaths, 58, including croup, 5 ; and diphtheria, 9.

Phthisis pulmonalis caused 5 deaths ; pneumonia, 11 ; and influenza, 4.

KENTUCKY—*Louisville.*—Month of January, 1890. Population, 227,000. Total deaths, 279, including diphtheria, 6 ; scarlet fever, 1 ; enteric fever, 5 ; measles, 1 ; and whooping-cough, 3.

Phthisis pulmonalis caused 42 deaths; pneumonia, 40; bronchitis, 13; and influenza, 1.

MASSACHUSETTS—*Newton*.—Month of January, 1890. Population, 22,011. Total deaths, 58, including diphtheria, 3.

Phthisis pulmonalis caused 6 deaths; bronchitis, 2; and pneumonia, 13.

The monthly report says:

Influenza, or "la grippe," began during Christmas week and has run through January, but has now nearly disappeared. It has caused a large increase in deaths from pneumonia, consumption, and kindred diseases, and has been particularly dangerous among old people. Diphtheria is not as prevalent as a year ago and much less fatal.

Worcester.—Month of January, 1890. Population, 85,000. Total deaths, 153, including croup, 3; diphtheria, 3; and enteric fever, 2.

Phthisis pulmonalis caused 21 deaths; pneumonia, 20; bronchitis, 13; and influenza, 2.

MINNESOTA.—Month of January, 1890. Reports to the State board of health from cities, towns, and villages having an aggregate population of 1,587,760, show a total of 956 deaths, against 798 in the preceding month. Measles caused 7 deaths in 5 localities, 5 counties. Scarlet fever caused 23 deaths in 18 localities, 13 counties. Diphtheria caused 73 deaths in 31 localities, 23 counties. Croup caused 36 deaths in 21 localities, 17 counties. Enteric fever caused 62 deaths in 34 localities, 27 counties. Bronchitis caused 22 deaths in 10 localities, 10 counties, and pneumonia 49 deaths in 18 localities, 15 counties.

Small-pox was reported in Minnetonka township, Hennepin County, December 12. No cases reported since.

RHODE ISLAND—*Newport*.—Year, 1889. Population, 22,300. Total deaths, 319, against 315 in 1888. The deaths included croup, 1; diphtheria, 9; scarlet fever, 1; and enteric fever, 7.

Phthisis pulmonalis caused 36 deaths; bronchitis, 16; and pneumonia, 20.

The yearly report says:

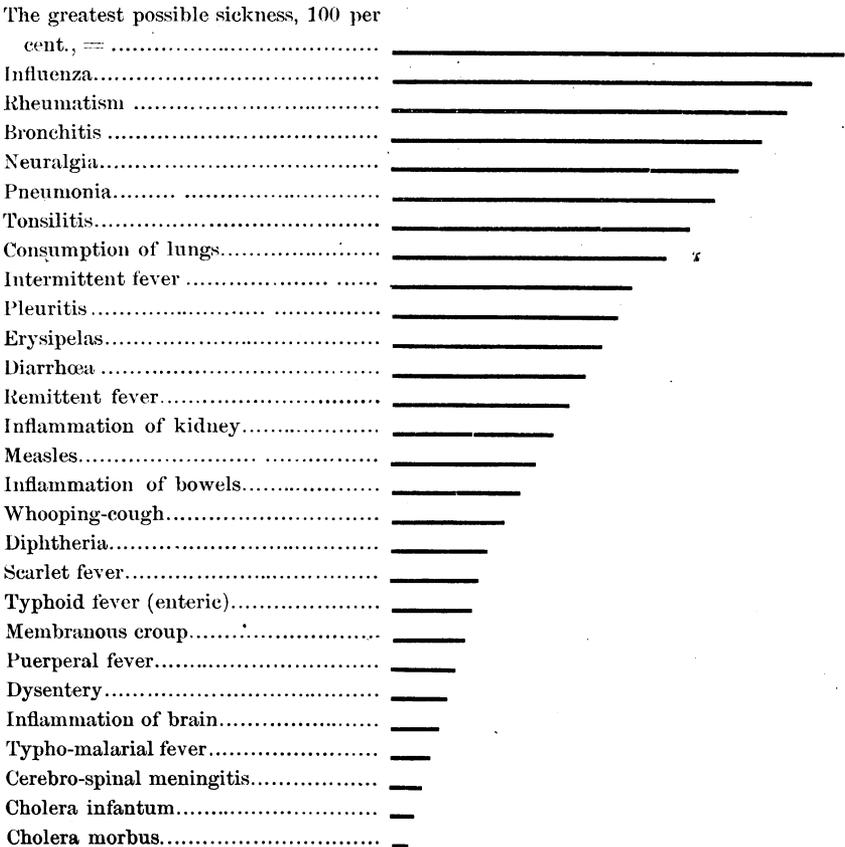
During the year 1889, twenty-three cases of typhoid fever were reported to the board of health as having originated within the city limits, with two deaths therefrom. In addition to these, however, were thirteen cases from the U. S. Schoolship *New Hampshire*, with five deaths therefrom, and ten cases imported into Newport; a total of forty-six cases and seven deaths. By imported cases is understood patients who came to Newport in a debilitated condition in quest of health, and were taken ill within a week or ten days after their arrival; it being evident upon investigation that the disease was contracted elsewhere. The thirteen cases from the *New Hampshire*, caused by the unsanitary surroundings of the schoolship, which was anchored close to the shore of Coasters Harbor Island, should not properly be included

in the total number of cases, since the patients were taken ill on board ship, and not in habitations on shore.

MICHIGAN.—Week ended February 15, 1890. Reports to the State board of health, Lansing, from 54 observers, indicate that typho-malarial fever, membranous croup, cholera morbus, typhoid fever, cerebro-spinal meningitis, and diarrhœa increased, and that puerperal fever decreased in area of prevalence.

Diphtheria was reported during the week at 21 places. Scarlet fever increased by 47 per cent., and was reported at 28 places. Enteric fever was reported at 12 places. Measles increased by 29 per cent., and was reported at 14 places. Small-pox, 1 case at Grand Rapids.

Health in Michigan, January, 1890.—The secretary of the Michigan State board of health says that the weekly reports indicate comparative sickness in Michigan during January, 1890, from each of the important diseases, as follows :



F O R E I G N .

(Reports received through the Department of State and other channels.)

Great Britain.

Ireland.—The average annual death rate, represented by the deaths registered during the week ended February 8, in the 16 principal town districts of Ireland, was 39.2 a thousand of the population. The lowest rate was recorded in Dundalk, viz, 8.7, and the highest in Belfast, viz, 58.6 a thousand. In Dublin and suburbs 226 deaths were registered, including measles, 2; enteric fever, 6; whooping-cough, 4; and influenza, 7.

Scotland.—The deaths registered in eight principal towns during the week ended February 8 corresponded to an annual rate of 25.5 a thousand of the population, which is estimated at 1,314,274. The lowest mortality was recorded in Leith, viz, 18.5, and the highest in Perth, viz, 32.8 a thousand. The aggregate number of deaths registered from all causes was 646, including measles, 24; scarlet fever, 13; diphtheria, 7; whooping-cough, 29; fever, 8; and diarrhoea, 4.

FRANCE—*Marseilles.*—One thousand eight hundred and twelve deaths were registered during the month of January, 1890, including small-pox, 40; enteric fever, 19; diphtheria and croup, 20; measles, 10; and diarrhoea and enteritis, 26. The increase in the number of deaths over that of December is due to influenza.

BRAZIL—*Bahia.*—From the dispatch of United States Consul Burke, dated January 22, 1890:

I have the honor to inform you that the health of this city is good. Great drought is prevalent, however, in many of the interior towns. There has been no rain in the interior for several weeks, and a great deal of suffering through famine is felt by the people. The governor of the State is very frequently appealed to for aid and the press is in daily receipt of letters, showing that the interior towns, many of them, are suffering from the effects of the famine. Cattle, sheep, and goats are reported dying in large numbers through lack of food and water.

Province of Para—Yellow Fever.—The *Deutsche Correspondent*, Baltimore, February 2, 1890, says:

“Yellow fever is raging at Cameta, in the province of Para, Brazil, and within six weeks has caused the death of more than one-third of the population.”

The attention of the United States consul at Para has been called to this report, with request for fuller information.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC—*Buenos Ayres*.—One thousand seven hundred and eight deaths were registered during the month of November, 1889, including small-pox, 24; enteric fever, 47; scarlet fever, 2; and diphtheria, 63. The prevailing diseases were enteric fever and diphtheria.

MEXICO—*Guaymas*.—Twenty-one deaths were reported during the month of January, 1890, none of which were from contagious diseases. No particular sickness prevailed. Sanitary condition of town fair.

CUBA—*Havana*.—There were no deaths from yellow fever during the week ended February 13, 1890.

AZORES—*Fayal*—*Small-pox*.—The United States consul reports, under date of January 30, 1890:

I have the honor to inform you that small-pox has made its appearance at the island of San Miguel (St. Michaels), of this group, and is in danger of spreading. On obtaining official information, I will report to you more fully.

Cholera in Sumatra.

The governor of the colony of Queensland, Australia, has rescinded, December 16, 1889, the quarantine against Java and other Sunda Islands, proclaimed November 20, 1889, because of reported cholera. Another proclamation, however, has been issued declaring quarantine against the island of Sumatra, on account of cholera, as follows:

* * * * *

Whereas it has been reported to me, the governor aforesaid, that the island of Sumatra is infected with cholera, an infectious disease dangerous to the public health: Now, therefore, I, Sir HENRY WYLIE NORMAN, the governor aforesaid, in pursuance and exercise of the powers in me vested by the said act, and by and with the advice of the executive council, do, by this my proclamation, notify that the island of Sumatra is infected with the said disease, and that it is probable that such disease may be brought from the said island to the colony of Queensland; and, with the advice aforesaid, I do further notify, order, and direct, that every ship which arrives at any port or place in Queensland from, or after having touched at, the island of Sumatra, and which shall have had actual communication with any part of the shore of the said island, or which brings passengers or goods from the said island, and all vessels and boats which receive any passengers or goods from any such ship, shall, upon arrival at any port or place in Queensland, be placed in quarantine, and shall perform quarantine for the period of fourteen days from date of arrival.

Given under my hand and seal at Toowoomba, this sixteenth day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-nine, and in the fifty-third year of Her Majesty's reign.

By command, for the chief secretary,

JOHN M. MACROSSAN.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!

A contagious disease of the eyes in Germany.

[Translated from *Der Deutsche Correspondent*, Baltimore, Md., February 21, 1890.]

DRESDEN, *Germany*, February 4, 1890.—The eye disease, which has made its appearance and become epidemic in the higher and elementary schools here, is increasing, and is now spreading to the colleges. Several of the schools have been closed on account of the disease.

Prevention of tuberculosis—Resolutions adopted by the Academy of Medicine, Paris.

[Translated for this Bureau from the *Journal d'Hygiène*, Paris, February 6, 1890.]

1. Tuberculosis is a parasitic and contagious disease, caused by a microbe found in expectorations and carried in the form of dust.

2. It is advisable to destroy these expectorations by means of boiling water and fire.

3. The parasite is also sometimes found in the milk of tuberculous cows, for which reason it is not prudent to use milk unboiled, especially when it is intended for the food of young persons.

4. The Academy directs the attention of the authorities to the dangers which tuberculous persons create for the communities in which they live, such as colleges, barracks, large commercial establishments, and Government workshops.

The relation of microbes to disease.

[Extract from the minutes of the meeting of the Société Française d'Hygiène, January 10, 1890. Translated for this Bureau from the *Journal d'Hygiène*, Paris, February 4, 1890.]

An article by M. Dulaurier, of Paris, entitled "Theory of the principal causes of diseases and their cure at the outset," was referred to M. Moreau for examination.

"According to the writer," reports M. Moreau in his summary, "microbes are not in themselves toxic. They become so by contact with bodies in a state of decomposition, in the midst of which they live. It is the disease that renders the microbe noxious, not the microbe which causes the disease. Remedies cause the disappearance of the microbes, not by directly destroying them, but by depriving them of their aliment."

MORTALITY TABLE—FOREIGN CITIES.

Cities.	Week ended.	Estimated population.	Total deaths from all causes.	Deaths from—								
				Cholera.	Yellow fever.	Small-pox.	Typhus fever.	Enteric fever.	Scarlet fever.	Diphtheria.	Measles.	Whooping-cough.
London.....	Feb. 1.....	5,758,500	2,311					9	14	33	15	
Rio de Janeiro.....	Jan. 25.....	450,000	290		19	9	7	4				
Edinburgh.....	Jan. 4.....	271,135	135									
Edinburgh.....	Jan. 11.....	271,135	174				1	1			4	
Edinburgh.....	Jan. 18.....	271,135	178					1		2	4	23
Palermo.....	Feb. 1.....	250,000	177						1			18
Rotterdam.....	Feb. 1.....	203,486	119									
Pernambuco.....	Jan. 21.....	120,000	55									
Leith.....	Jan. 4.....	78,538	45			1		1		1		
Leith.....	Jan. 11.....	78,538	40							3		
Leith.....	Jan. 18.....	78,538	22							4	1	
Kingston, Can.....	Feb. 14.....	18,284	16					1				
Sagua la Grande.....	Feb. 8.....	15,605	6									
St. Thomas.....	Jan. 17.....	13,500	19									2
St. Thomas.....	Jan. 24.....	13,500	12									4
St. Thomas.....	Jan. 31.....	13,500	15									4

JOHN B. HAMILTON,

Supervising Surgeon-General, Marine-Hospital Service.